

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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O 092041Z DEC 77 ZFF4

FM USDEL SECRETARY IN CAIRO

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T SECTO 12040

NODIS

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS)

SUBJECT: LETTER TO FOREIGN MINISTER GROMYKO FROM

SECRETARY VANCE

1. AMBASSADOR TOON SHOULD DELIVER FOLLOWING LETTER FROM
THE SECRETARY TO FOREIGN MINISTER GROMYKO. MARSHALL
SHULMAN SHOULD MAKE A COPY AVAILABLE TO DOBRYNIN.

BEGIN TEXT:

"DEAR MR. FOREIGN MINISTER:

- I HAVE NOW HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO RECEIVE A FULL
REPORT FROM UNDER SECRETARY HABIB OF HIS CONVERSATIONS
WITH YOU AND YOUR COLLEAGUES. I FELT IT MIGHT BE USEFUL
IF I WERE TO SEND YOU PROMPTLY SOME PERSONAL
OBSERVATIONS.

- DESPITE OUR STRONG COMMON INTEREST IN MOVING THE
SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST TOWARD A COMPREHENSIVE
SETTLEMENT AND THE PROGRESS WE HAVE BEEN MAKING IN THAT
DIRECTION, I AM CONCERNED THAT RECENT DEVELOPMENTS MAY
HAVE THE EFFECT OF WIDENING SOME DIVERGENCIES IN OUR
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RESPECTIVE POSITIONS, WITH THE RESULT THAT OUR COMMON
EFFORT MAY BE WEAKENED. TO THE EXTENT THAT THESE
DIVERGENCIES RESULT FROM DIFFERENT PERCEPTIONS AND CAN
BE MODERATED BY CLARIFICATIONS OF POINTS RAISED IN YOUR
DISCUSSIONS WITH HABIB, I HOPE THIS COMMUNICATION FROM
ME CAN BE HELPFUL.

- FIRST OF ALL, YOU SHOULD HAVE NO MISCONCEPTION ABOUT WHERE THE INITIATIVE FOR SADAT'S TRIP TO JERUSALEM ORIGINATED. WE DID NOT KNOW IN ADVANCE THAT HE WOULD MAKE THIS PROPOSAL. WITH REGARD TO THE PLAN FOR THE CAIRO MEETING, WE WERE INFORMED THE NIGHT BEFORE, AND SUGGESTED THAT TIME BE ALLOWED FOR ADEQUATE CONSULTATION WITH THE VARIOUS PARTIES. ONCE THE PROPOSAL WAS MADE, WE BELIEVED THAT THIS INITIATIVE COULD HAVE PRODUCTIVE RESULTS AND THAT IT WAS OF THE UTMOST IMPORTANCE THAT NEITHER OF THE CO-CHAIRMEN APPEAR TO BE IN THE POSITION OF OBSTRUCTING AN EFFORT ON THE PART OF EGYPT AND ISRAEL TO NARROW THEIR DIFFERENCES AND TO CREATE A CLIMATE MORE PROPITIOUS FOR NEGOTIATIONS LEADING TO A COMPREHENSIVE PEACE SETTLEMENT. BOTH THE EGYPTIANS AND THE ISRAELIS HAVE MADE IT CLEAR TO US THAT THEY SEE THEIR PRESENT EFFORTS AS LEADING TO A GENEVA CONFERENCE AND A COMPREHENSIVE SETTLEMENT.

- IT IS MY INTENTION TO CONSULT WITH THE PARTIES INVOLVED DURING MY TRIP TO THE AREA, AND TO DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO ASSIST AND ENCOURAGE THEM TO SHAPE THE CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS SO THAT THEY WILL FEED PRODUCTIVELY INTO A COMPREHENSIVE SETTLEMENT AT GENEVA. I KNOW YOU APPRECIATE FULLY THAT THE UTMOST RESTRAINT AND DELICACY ARE REQUIRED AT THIS STAGE, WHICH OFFERS SO WIDE A RANGE OF UNPREDICTABLE POSSIBILITIES, AND I TRUST YOU WILL DO ALL THAT IS WITHIN YOUR POWER TO PREVENT THE POLARIZATION AND RECRIM-

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INATIONS WHICH COULD MAKE CONSTRUCTIVE PROGRESS MORE DIFFICULT. IT IS IN THIS CONTEXT THAT I WAS PARTICULARLY DISAPPOINTED AND AS THE FULL TEXT OF MY PRESS CONFERENCE MADE CLEAR, WE SEE THE CAIRO MEETING AS A CONFERENCE TO PREPARE FOR COMPREHENSIVE NEGOTIATIONS AT GENEVA. WE ARE READY TO PROCEED THERE AS SOON AS THE PROCEDURAL OBSTACLES BLOCKING A RECONVENING CAN BE OVERCOME. IN THE MEANTIME, I HOPE YOU WILL AGREE THAT IT CANNOT SERVE OUR COMMON PURPOSE IN THE MIDDLE EAST OR ELSEWHERE FOR THE MOTIVES OF THE UNITED STATES TO BE MISSTATED.

- I WILL INFORM YOU ABOUT THE RESULTS OF MY PRESENT TRIP AND DISCUSS WITH YOU WHAT FURTHER STEPS MIGHT THEN BE TAKEN. RESPECTFULLY, CYRUS VANCE." END TEXT. VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SECTO, TEXT, POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS, CAT-B
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 09-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977SECTO12040
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: P840072-1244
Format: TEL
From: SECRETARY SECTO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771272/aaaacjlu.tel
Line Count: 108
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 9eaa9407-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 293418
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LETTER TO FOREIGN MINISTER GROMYKO FROM SECRETARY VANCE
TAGS: OVIP, PSDC, PDEV, US, UR, XF, (VANCE, CYRUS R), (GROMYKO, ANDREY ANDREYEVICH)
To: STATE MOSCOW
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/9eaa9407-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009